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WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 134
OLYMPIA WA 98507

(360) 943-3880
1-800-491-WFCA (9322)
FAX (360) 664-0415

WWW.WFCA.WA.GOV
WFCA@WFCA.WA.GOV

LOCATION

605 11TH AVE. S.E.
SUITE 205
OLYMPIA WA 98501

OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 2008

Volunteer Cost Savings Study and Calculator

The following information was supplied by Kimberly Ettinger of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Foundation recently released its Cost Savings Study and Calculator at the National Associations of Towns and Townships conference in Washington, DC.

The study, which was conducted by the Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute at St. Joseph's University with the assistance of VFIS, found that it would cost American taxpayers \$37.2 billion annually if we had to replace all volunteer firefighters nationwide with career staffing.

These figures can help make the case for the need for local, state and federal investment in the volunteer fire service.

Besides determining the national savings that volunteers provide, the NVFC Foundation developed tools that will determine the local cost savings of the volunteer fire service. Local departments can use the cost-savings calculator and PowerPoint presentation to then educate their city/town council, fire department boards, local groups, etc., regarding the value their department provides to the community. Furthermore, these cost-savings figures can help make the case for the need for local, state and federal investment in the volunteer fire service.

St. Joseph's Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute, located in Philadelphia, offers a Master's Degree in Public Safety. All of the students and faculty who participated in the project are volunteer firefighters. The study was made possible by a grant from UBS, through the efforts of Mr. David Rogers.

To view the calculator, log onto <http://www.nvfc.org> and select Resources for Departments & Personnel.

PDC Filing Reminder

It's time to file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (PDC Form F-1) for calendar year 2007. The F-1 is due on or before April 15, 2008. Any commissioner who was in office during 2007 in a district serving 1,000 or more registered voters **must** file.

The F-1 can be filed electronically, by mail, or personal delivery. Visit www.pdc.wa.gov/filers/appointed/default.aspx for blank forms and instructions. If you have questions regarding F-1 filing, please contact PDC by telephone at 360.753.1111 (toll-free in Washington State 1.877.601.2828), or email pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

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A Message from the President by Joe Dawson



Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy prosperous New Year. I appreciate being given the opportunity to serve as your president for another year. I pledge to represent you with sincerity and integrity.

It goes without saying that your association has ramped up for the current legislative session and that our staff and lobbyists are testifying on various pieces of legislation in all of our best interests. You have previously received information on the primary legislative goals of our association so I need not repeat them in this article.

I would, however, like to remind all of you of the importance of reading the WFCA weekly legislative bulletin and even more importantly, the powerful impact we have when you contact your

legislators. In my *Fireline* article of February, 2007, I restated some suggestions, in abbreviated form, that Roger Ferris had presented us with. I feel compelled to repeat those suggestions once again.

...with two exceptions, everyone who expressed an interest in serving on a committee received an appointment...

Therefore, when communicating with our elected officials it is critical that we:
Be specific;
Be polite;
Be brief; and,
Base and back up your opinions on facts.

Your Board of Directors held a

meeting on January 23, the day before our legislative day on capitol hill. I announced at that Board meeting my appointments for various committees. I must say, in all candor, that there are few changes from last year as so few people expressed an interest to serve on committees. I urged you all to do so at conference but few were received.

As a result, with only two exceptions, everyone who expressed an interest in serving on a committee received an appointment to at least one of the committees they chose. The two exceptions were because one of the interested parties already serves on the Board and the other has been recommended to the Governor to serve on the EMS and Trauma Steering Committee.

There are two appointments of

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WFCA Board Biography

In our continuing series of WFCA Board biographies, this month we feature...



SHARON COLBY
Sharon first got involved in fire service in 1980 when she became a volunteer firefighter and EMT. In 1990, she became a fire commissioner for Spokane County Fire Protection District 1. She worked with the Spokane County Fire Commissioners Association, serving as vice-president and president.

In 1994, Sharon was elected to the WFCA Board Region Director 1 position. She has served on numerous committees and boards, among them the Fire Protection Policy Board (1998-2007) and the Fire Leadership Forum (since its inception). In 2001, Sharon received Honorary Life Member status in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association.

At the county level, Sharon is a member of the EMS Council, Chair of the LEPC, and represents fire service with the Growth Management Steering Committee.

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ON THE WEB

During session, the WFCA posts weekly legislative updates on its website. To view, visit www.wfca.wa.gov and select **Current Report** in the drop down menu under the **Legislative Reports** tab. NOTE: Weekly reports are sent to members on the WFCA email distribution list and mailed to WFCA members *by request only*.



NW Leadership Seminar

The 39th Annual Northwest Leadership Seminar will be held March 5-7, 2008, at the Red Lion on the River (Jantzen Beach) in Portland, Oregon. This year's theme is Leadership: Sharpening Your Mental Edge—It's Your Move!

Among this year's speakers are: Dr. Rick Brinkman, Commander (Ret.) Scott Waddle, Captain (Ret.) Charles Plumb, Dr. Steve Robbins, Fire Chief Jeff Johnson, Bruce Brown and Mark Speckman.

For complete program and registration information log onto www.leadershipseminar.com. Seminar and lodging will be at the Red Lion on the River, 909 Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon, 97217, 503.283.4466.

Fire Service Directory Mailed to WFCA Members

The 2008 Washington State Fire Service Directory has been mailed to all WFCA member district commissioners, secretaries and chiefs.

Please be sure to check your district's listing and let the WFCA office know if there are any errors or updates, as the directory information is used to maintain the association's mailing address database.

For additional copies of the directory, contact the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322, email wfca@wfca.wa.gov, fax 360.664.0415 or write P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507. The charge per copy is \$15 for WFCA members and \$30 for non-members.

Message From Page Two

special significance. After serving us well for several years, Dennis Bjork (Grant 5) decided to take a break from serving as chairman of the Legislative Committee. We appreciate his service and effort.

In his place, I have appointed Miland Walling (Klickitat 2) as chair of the committee. Miland has been serving on the committee and is extremely knowledgeable of the legislative process.

The second significant change is my appointment of Jim Farrell (Mountain View Fire and Rescue) as chair of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Jim replaces Bill Hansen (Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue). Bill will continue to serve on the committee and to serve as our Parliamentarian but felt it in the best interest of our association not to serve as both chair of the committee and as parliamentarian. All committee appointments may be found on the WFCA website.

With that, I wish you all good fortune and success and don't forget to keep in touch with your legislators.

Biography From Page Two

Sharon and her husband Dick have been married for 46 years and have four sons (Michael, Kelly, Jamie and Lynn) and two grandsons (Kees and Aaron).

They live on a few acres south of Spokane. According to Sharon, their home seems to attract every wandering animal in the area—cats, dogs, skunks, porcupines, raccoons, a herd of elk (that don't know how to cope with fences and just walk through them), and most recently they were visited several times by three VERY LARGE moose that proceeded to eat their apple trees.

Dick likes to restore antique cars. Sharon likes to ride in them, so that balances out nicely. She also reads a lot and loves Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Sharon does a lot of writing as well—for local newspapers, for EWU, for The Spangle Banner (a little weekly newspaper that she created), and she has done the fire district newsletter for the last 25 years.